

THE DOTted LINE

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AN ACQUISITION AND GRANT NEWSLETTER

SPRING 1996

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR DAVID LITMAN

In early 1995, the DOT Secretary's Management Council (SMC), which includes the chief operating officer from each of the operating administrations and is chaired by the Deputy Secretary, chartered an Acquisition Reengineering and Realignment Task Force (ARRT). The ARRT was led by Joe Kerner from the Federal Railroad Administration (now retired) and included procurement and program officials from each operating administration. The ARRT produced a final report in March 1995 that had several recommendations for improving DOT's acquisition system.



Since that time, the DOT Procurement Management Council (PMC) and the

OST Office of Acquisition and Grant Management have been jointly carrying out the recommendations of the ARRT. In the past year, we have implemented many changes to DOT's acquisition system. I thought this would be a good time to update you on our progress.

One of the first activities resulting from the ARRT initiative was a revitalization of the PMC itself. As Senior Procurement Executive, I chair the PMC which includes senior procurement officials from each operating administration. We developed a charter which defines 3 major areas of interest for the PMC: (1) strategic management of DOT's procurement system, (2) reengineering and reinventing DOT's procurement process, and (3) special projects. Over the past year, we have implemented initiatives in each of these areas. Here is a brief summary of some of our accomplishments:

- DOT Procurement Reinvention Laboratory

You can read more about the Lab elsewhere in this issue.

- Empowerment

Based on feedback from the Lab and information we get from you, we have been making changes to the TAR and TAM to bring them more into line with the FAR, eliminating unnecessary approvals or procedures. We have also raised approval levels or delegated authority to the lowest practicable level. One example is the increase in the formal source selection threshold from \$5 million to \$50 million. If you have suggestions for other changes we can make, let us know.

- Purchase Card

DOT is the largest civilian agency user of the purchase card. We have tried to eliminate any barriers to making the purchase card the procurement vehicle of choice under the micropurchase threshold (\$2,500). We continue to work to improve the program to make it as simple to use as possible. Let us know what else we can do.

- Procurement Performance Measurement (PPM)

Many of you participated in last year's inaugural performance measurement effort. We have eliminated Department level procurement management reviews in favor of a performance measurement approach. We believe PPM provides a

positive incentive to share success stories and focus on the good things happening in the procurement community. We capped off last year's program with a Best-In-Class symposium at which the Deputy Secretary recognized our leading practitioners in each of the measured areas.

This year, we have established an intermodal Procurement Information Exchange (PIE) Council to run the program and serve as a general clearinghouse for good ideas. There is also a Governmentwide initiative to develop and implement procurement performance measures over the course of the next year. Because of our use of PPM, we may be ahead of the power curve on that one.

- Contract Information System (CIS)

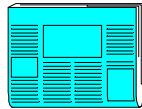
We modernized and streamlined the CIS - the results of that effort are out there for all of you to see.

Hot PMC topics for 1996 include electronic commerce, acquisition workforce initiatives and information sharing. Watch soon for an enhanced homepage on the Web for DOT procurement and grants information. We plan to use it as a clearinghouse for results of lab experiments, delivery order and task order contracts available for use, and whatever other ideas the creative geniuses come up with. For those of you without Internet access, we are looking at other strategies for getting information to you. We are open to suggestions.

This is going to be a challenging year for the DOT procurement community. The more we share with each other, the better off we will all be!

THE DOTted LINE ON THE INTERNET

(by Laverne Taylor, OST, M-61)



The DOTted Line is now available on the Internet via World Wide Web. To access the DOTted Line, the Universal Resource Locator Location is **<http://www.dot.gov/dotinfo/ost/grant/news.html>**. The DOTted Line is formatted in Adobe Acrobat. Instructions are at the beginning of the page. If you have any questions, or need help accessing the DOTted Line on the Internet, please call Laverne Taylor at (202) 366-4279 or use the Internet and send to **laverne_taylor@postmaster2.dot.gov**.

PROCUREMENT PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT UPDATE

(by Lori Byrd, OST, M-61)

DOT RECEIVES GOLD MEDAL OF EXCELLENCE FROM THE INTERNATIONAL BENCHMARKING



CLEARINGHOUSE. Deputy Secretary Downey sponsored the submission of an application to the International Benchmarking Clearinghouse (IBC) for the Procurement Performance Measurement Model. We did it! This effort represented the first Federal agency to receive an award for benchmarking from the IBC. Award

levels were bronze, silver, and gold (being the best).....and DOT received the **GOLD! CONGRATULATIONS DOT!!!!** Special thanks to Deputy Secretary Downey and all of the procurement offices that have participated in the performance measurements.

In February and March, 1995, 28 procurement offices were measured. The DOT was the first agency to implement the model. In June, 1995, Best-In-Class (BIC) and BIC Runner-Up Award recipients were recognized by the Secretary and Deputy Secretary. Since this time, representatives from each mode have formed the Procurement Information Exchange Council (the Council). The Council was formed to host the 1996 measurements and BIC Symposium, and to serve as an agent to foster exchange of information among the operating administrations. The Council representatives include: David Sallas and Barbara Butts-FAA; Barbara Sneden and Bob Baggins-USCG; Joyce Harris and Gene Simmons-MARAD; Robert Carpenter-FRA; John Johnson-FHWA; Ramona Swann-TASC; Bobby Jones-FTA; Keith O'Neil-RSPA; and, Peter Shultz-NHTSA. Participation on the Council is encouraged. If you would like to contribute or have suggestions for implementation of performance measures, please contact your Council representative.

1996 PERFORMANCE

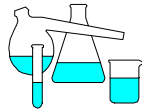
MEASUREMENT SCHEDULE: Your Council representatives are now collecting data (customer and employee surveys; and, management self-assessments) for 1996 performance

measures. We anticipate this data collection will conclude before April. The BIC recognition awards ceremony will be in June, 1996. Ideas such as workshops, focus groups and white papers are now being discussed as methodologies for BIC recipients to share best practices. Please let your council representative know your ideas for sharing knowledge resulting from the performance measures.

For additional information on performance measures or benchmarking, please contact Lori Byrd at (202) 366-6068 or Fax at (202) 366-9634.

PROCUREMENT REINVENTION LABORATORY

(by Elaine Wheeler, OST, M-61)



The DOT Procurement Reinvention Laboratory (LAB) is still in operation and awaiting your experiments. As discussed in the last issue of the DOTted Line, an intermodal Lab Core Team has been established to create the framework for the Lab. The Core Team, in concert with the Procurement Management Council, created the DOT Procurement Reinvention Laboratory Partnering Agreement (disseminated as TAM NOTE 95-03) which contains Phase I of the Lab. Phase I focuses on waivers to the TAM for individual procurements. As noted in the article entitled, "What's In the Lab," the Lab contains a mixture of experiments--those using waivers and those needing no waivers but using innovative strategies.

Now that the Lab is underway, we are ready to broaden its scope. Many have asked for the waiver authority to be expanded to a class of actions. Do you have other ideas for expanding the Lab--certain areas you want to see? If so, let us know what they are. Please tell us your ideas by making a quick phone call to Elaine Wheeler on (202) 366-4272 or by Faxing your suggestions to Elaine on (202) 366-7510. We want and need to hear from you. After all, this Lab is for your use, let's find ways to make the procurement process work for you.

WHAT'S IN THE LAB

(by Jim Hawkins, OST, M-61)

As of February, 1996, we had ten experiments registered in the Procurement Reinvention Laboratory (Lab). These experiments have exposed opportunities available when waivers and deviations are used as well as creative approaches based on existing guidance. Perhaps some of the Lab's experimental approaches and features will "tweak" your thoughts on how to approach a particular acquisition.

Several of the experiments use variations of oral proposal techniques allowing you to profit from the experience of others. Other experiments include multiple awards for purposes of using competitive task orders, CICA exceptions, past performance evaluations, cost-plus-award-fee task order contracting, and use of the DOD four-step selection process. Almost every operating

administration has at least one experiment in the Lab

A major benefit of the "Lab" is sharing techniques among "those who do the work." To promote this, I will furnish you a synopsis of the experiments, including a point of contact, just for the asking. However, since this is a Lab, let's try something different. Let's use the "Net."

To obtain a synopsis of the Lab experiments, please send me an e-mail at:

jim_hawkins@postmaster2.dot.gov. The synopsis will be sent in Word, but if you have a special request, we will attempt to accommodate it --- we are a little "electronically challenged," but we try stuff. Of course, a "paper copy" will be sent if you call Jim Hawkins at (202) 366-6688 or Aretha Suggs at (202) 366-4271, and have your FAX number ready.

PROCUREMENT REINVENTION EXPERIMENT--A VISION BECOMES A REALITY

(by Tom Scott, RSPA HQ., DMA-30)



In June 1995, the Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA), Office of Contracts and Procurement, registered the **first** procurement reinvention project in the Department's Reinvention Lab. The Lab provides contracting officers an innovative opportunity to demonstrate their streamlining ideas by employing new, risk taking approaches to procuring supplies and services. The goal of the

RSPA Lab experiment was to reduce acquisition lead time by 50 percent from a normal lead time of eight months to only four months for a competitive procurement and to increase customer satisfaction.

RSPA did not request any waivers from the Federal Acquisition Regulation, however, legislation was passed which allowed us to award to other than the low price offeror without discussions. In addition, the Transportation Acquisition Manual increased the formal source selection threshold from \$5 million to \$50 million which made the process less burdensome. The procurement was a fully competitive solicitation for technical and engineering support services for RSPA's Office of Pipeline Safety. The estimated value was \$9 million.

The acquisition team began developing the pre-solicitation documentation such as the statements of work, acquisition and selection plans, and Commerce Business Daily synopsis notice, prior to the receipt of the Procurement Request (PR). Therefore, the first phase of the procurement process was nearly completed by the time the PR was received by the contracts office. This allowed the procurement package to be incorporated immediately into the solicitation. The solicitation closing date was November 20, 1995, and within 30 days three contracts were awarded. This success was attributable to a combination of streamlining and innovative techniques as follows:

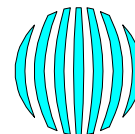
- Use of Past Performance as the Most Important Evaluation Factor

- Use of Dunn & Bradstreet Past Performance Survey Service
- Reduced Proposal Data
- Award without Discussions
- Use of Oral Presentations
- Use of Automated Cost Proposal Form

The above techniques were able to simplify the process for the Government as well as for the contractors. The use of oral presentations has greatly reduced the amount of time previously devoted to reviewing offeror's proposals. The use of commercial past performance data bases, such as Dunn & Bradstreet, further supports streamlining initiatives by allowing selection teams to quickly access and review data on potential awardees. We were able to select the best qualified contractors by using past performance in addition to their technical capability as demonstrated in their oral presentations. By streamlining the process, we were able to quickly and effectively evaluate the offeror's proposals and award quality contracts in record time. Due to the success of this initiative, RSPA looks forward to further utilizing this process on future procurements.

CONTRACTOR PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

(by Charlotte Hackley, OST, M-61)



Have you evaluated or are you making preparations to evaluate the contractor's performance under contracts? No? Well, Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) 42.15, Contractor Performance Information, requires it. The DOT's proposed implementation of the FAR requirements is expected to be issued in the Transportation Acquisition Manual in the next quarter. In the interim, operating administrations may utilize Appendix B to TAM Chapter 1242 to evaluate contractor performance.

FAR 42.1503(b) permits release of the completed evaluation to other Government personnel; however, it is DOT's policy that all "non-Federal entities or personnel" are considered the public. Freedom of Information Act requests for copies of evaluations must be processed in accordance with the Act, as implemented by DOT under 49 CFR Part 7 and any operating administration supplement. Legal advice should be sought when in doubt.

IMPROVEMENTS IN CONTRACTING WITH THE GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION/FEDERAL SUPPLY SCHEDULE

(by Barbara Weakley, OST, M-61)

The General Services Administration's (GSA) Federal Supply Schedule (FSS) Program advertises quality products, good prices, and low administrative

costs. Recent improvements to the GSA/FSS ordering process include:

- **PREDETERMINED PRICE REASONABLENESS:** By awarding a contractor an FSS contract, GSA has determined the prices to be fair and reasonable. Consequently, orders of \$2,500 or less (micro-purchase threshold) can be placed with any FSS contractor. No further contract file documentation is necessary to support the price.
- **PRICE REDUCTIONS:** FSS contracts now contain a "level" at which it is recommended that customers (that's us) request price decreases from the contractor before placing an order and, unlike before, FSS contractors are authorized to offer price reductions in accordance with commercial practice.
- **EXPECTED DELIVERY:** FSS contractors are requested to be as expeditious as possible, identify items that can be delivered faster than normal, identify the expedited delivery time, and identify in their price lists items that can be delivered overnight or within two days.
- **MAXIMUM ORDER LIMITATIONS:** Maximum order limitations have been eliminated. FSS contractors are now allowed to accept "any size" order.
- **COMPETITION REQUIREMENTS:** For orders in excess of the micro-purchase threshold, the

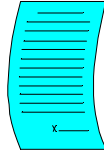
consideration of at least three sources or the review of three FSS contractor's price lists is now much easier and quicker through the new "GSA Advantage!" System.

(Internet e-mail address: GSA.Advantage@gsa.gov; voice mail hotline: 703-305-7359).

- **GSA ADVANTAGE!:** GSA Advantage! is a newly developed electronic ordering system, an on-line shopping service which enables customers to search on product specific information (NSN, part number, common name), review delivery options and place orders instantly. Credit card orders are accepted.
- **DOCUMENTATION:** Documentation requirements have been reduced. The new FSS ordering procedures emphasize customer discretion and reduced paperwork, saving time and money.
- **ELIMINATION OF THE NEED FOR "WAIVERS":** Mandatory usage of FSS contracts is being eliminated as individual schedule periods expire. Over half the FSS contracts are now nonmandatory, and GSA is examining methods to speed up the conversion process.
- **SYNOPSIS:** Information technology requirements need no longer be synopsisized.

MULTIPLE AWARD CONTRACTING---WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

(by Elaine Wheeler, OST, M-61)



The Federal Acquisition Streamlining Act brought many changes to our doorstep including the recognition that the use of multiple award indefinite-delivery, indefinite quantity (IDIQ) contracts is a legitimate and effective method of contracting. This type of contract uses one solicitation to make multiple contract awards for the same or similar work but (and most importantly) the orders placed against them can be awarded to any of the contract holders based upon the evaluation criteria set forth in the solicitation and contract.

If this whole concept of multiple award IDIQ contracts is a muddle to you, perhaps the following can help eliminate the confusion:

1. First and foremost, we now have the terms "task orders" (orders for services) and "delivery orders" (orders for supplies). Therefore, using the term "delivery orders" for both supplies and services is outmoded and not correct.
2. When you're buying advisory and assistance services that exceed three years and \$10 million (including all options), multiple awards must be made unless the contracting officer can justify (in writing) otherwise. This preference only applies to indefinite quantity contracts such as level of effort contracts with an estimated number of labor hours (those with firm hours would be excluded).
3. While the solicitation's (and resultant contract's) statement of work, specification, or other description can be general (but specific enough so a potential offeror can decide whether to submit an offer), its orders must clearly describe the specific supply or service needed.
4. No synopsis is required prior to issuing orders.
5. No justification for other than full and open competition is required when placing orders.
6. The selection as to which contract holder will receive an order is at the contracting officer's discretion. Criteria other than competition (e.g., past performance, quality of deliverable), can be used as long as the procedures and selection criteria are set forth in the solicitation/ contract and each contract holder is considered for the award. For example, an award allocation system is not to be used.
7. Order placement requires no formal evaluation plans or scoring of offers. It is up to the contracting officer to comply with the procedures in the contract and to use good business judgment in deciding who receives an order.

8. Protests are precluded from the new multiple award procedures except for protests based on increases in scope, period, or maximum value of the contract.

One of DOT's own is at the forefront of using the multiple award IDIQ contracts--the Volpe National Transportation Systems Center in Cambridge, Massachusetts, has used this contracting method for approximately eight years. They are a wealth of information on this subject. If you would like more information on Volpe's use of multiple award contracting, please call Mr. David Scali (617) 494-2042.

In the January edition of the National Contract Management Association magazine, Linda Williams and Mathew Blum of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy wrote an excellent article on multiple award contracting which you may wish to read.

All in all, multiple award contracting can afford us the opportunities of ongoing competition without the delays associated with conducting new procurements. This, coupled with the use of oral proposals and/or oral technical presentations, can help streamline the process while reducing/removing the paperwork burdens so often associated with the procurement process. Try it! You may find it to be a great contracting tool.

FISCAL YEAR (FY) 1995 GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE PROTESTS

(by Dave Jordan, OST, M-61)

The chart on page 16 illustrates the DOT's General Accounting Office protest activity for FY 1995. The total number of protests decreased from 90 in FY 1994 to 71 in FY 1995. The number of sustained protests decreased from 3 in FY 1994 to 2 in FY 1995. Let's keep up the good work in FY 1996!!

REPORTS

(by Babs Fallat, OST, M-61)

TAM NOTE 96-01 (1243.7004(b)) deleted the requirement for the quarterly unpriced contract action report. Please note that "OAs may be required to prepare UCA reports upon request from M-60." By memorandum dated November 3, 1995, the Procurement Chiefs were notified of a change in the reporting requirements for form SF-281, Summary Contract Action Report (\$25,000 or Less). In addition, the form itself was changed. Several OAs submitted their first quarter FY 1996 report on the old form. Instructions were included with this memorandum, along with a copy of the new form. A revised TAM chapter for the CIS and the SF-281 will be included in the next TAM change.

CIS UPDATES

(by Babs Fallat, OST, M-61)

Babs Fallat has returned to work and is recovering very well from her shoulder surgery. She would like to thank Dave Jordan for filling in for her and doing such a great job. Please direct all your CIS calls to Babs at (202) 366-4974.

"BROADCAST ANNOUNCEMENTS" ON THE CIS

In order to keep you apprised of changes and other events happening in CIS, we are developing broadcast announcements that will appear on your screen as you logon to the CIS. These announcements will alert you to current and future changes to the CIS, reminders for the week, or just to say "Hi." You may print the announcements by pressing the "print screen" key.

CIS REPORTING

We are in the process of finalizing the program changes to the CIS Reporting System. The system is operational **NOW**, but not all of the reports or selections work. As we complete the final program changes, we will move them into production. We know many of you are using the CIS Query, and we encourage you to start using the Special Reports. **Remember**, you are limited to your data only. We will put announcements on CIS as we move various report functions into CIS. We hope to distribute a disc to the field offices that will have a CIS ACCESS program. This program will allow you to download your CIS information and prepare your MPPR reports. Instructions will be included, but batteries are not included. In addition, we are exploring the feasibility of

offering a class in CIS reporting this spring. We will first have to discuss with the PMC the need for such a class, once the reporting function is totally operational. If you have any questions or want a quick lesson, please call Babs Fallat at (202) 366-4974.

CIS USERS GUIDE AND TAM UPDATE

We have delayed issuing an update to the Guide until the reports area is totally functional. We hope to have a new Guide ready by May or June, 1996. We will ask the CIS Coordinators for the number of copies required, so please contact them and give them the number that your office will need. In addition, a TAM update will be issued in the near future. The update will provide instructions to the contract specialist on how to fill out the CIS input form.

CIS FORM

We will revise the form for FY 1997. As of now, we have several minor changes, including the addition of a new block for "Multi Year Contracting." We will have an initial distribution after which you may order additional copies through your normal forms supply channels.

RESERVE BLOCKS ON THE CIS FORM

We have received requests to use the Reserve Blocks on the CIS form. We will notify you soon about how to access these blocks.

CIS DISTRIBUTION LISTS

We have received complaints about outdated and incorrect addresses and contact persons. We will send a request to you to review and update the

information for your procurement office. For those offices that do not respond, we will notify the headquarters office and request verification of the existence of the procurement office. When we send out this list, we will also put a broadcast announcement on the CIS to let you know it is coming.

CIS CLASSES

We are still available to offer CIS training for contract specialists or procurement clerks. In addition, we are looking into putting together a CIS reporting class that may have a CIS refresher component. If you are interested in additional classes in CIS, please contact your coordinator and let them know.

In summary, watch for the CIS Broadcast Announcements and keep your faxes, letters, and phone calls coming. So far Jean Bretz and Sue Stanton have the prize for identifying the most glitches in the system. Remember, if you think you have found an input error, please fax the CIS form to us along with the error message you are getting on the screen. You can use the "print screen" key if you do not have ENTIRE CONNECTION. Function keys remain a problem for some individuals, but you must get with your local computer people to resolve the problem. We are here to help you, so please call with your questions or comments.

DEBRIEFING UNDER FASA

(by Nilza Velazquez, U.S. Coast Guard Hq., G-LPL)

(as submitted by Barbara Sneden, U.S. Coast Guard Hq., G-CPM)

Among other things, the Federal Acquisition Streamlining Act of 1994 (FASA) (P.L. 103-355, 108 Stat 3243), amended and enlarged the scope of debriefing due unsuccessful offerors and it also increased record keeping and notification requirements. Congress expects that the increase in the scope of information provided during debriefing (along with the record keeping and notification requirements) will accelerate the process by reducing an unsuccessful vendor's incentive to protest a contract award:

The primary purpose of mandating meaningful debriefings as part of the acquisition streamlining effort is to eliminate the filing of protests as a means to discover the propriety of an award decision. These protests unnecessarily tax the already burdened procurement system in a manner **which could be obviated simply by requiring the appropriate disclosure** of such information in the form of a debriefing. [Emphasis added.] (Senate Report 103-258, Committee on Government Affairs, Federal Acquisition Streamlining Act, May 11, 1994).

We will not know whether or not the new requirements achieve this objective until more time has passed. Before FASA was enacted, "the conduct of the debriefing concerns only an after-the-fact explanation of the selection, not the validity of the selection itself" (Matter of the Farallones Institute Rural Center, B-211632, November 8, 1983; 83-2 CPD

540, at p. 6.). Now, complying with the new requirements of FASA has changed the **scope** of debriefing. Debriefing will now require more detail and explanation regarding the losing proposal. In addition, the debriefing will require release of information regarding the winning proposal so communication with the winner regarding what will be released from their proposal will be

prudent. Otherwise, we run the risk of creating a dispute with a winner that becomes unhappy with what we have told their competitor.

In order to provide an overview of the changes, the table below compares the old and new requirements and provides an indication of the increased scope of the debriefing.

DEBRIEFING REQUIREMENTS BEFORE AND AFTER FASA

Pre-FASA Release Criteria	FASA Release Criteria	Change
Agency must indicate significant weak or deficient factors	Agency must indicate significant weak or deficient factors	Stays the Same
Relative technical merits could not be released. Overall cost of awardee not mentioned.	Agency must provide cost and technical information from both awardee and debriefed offeror	Adds this Requirement
Scoring could not be released.	Agency must provide the overall ranking of all offers	Adds this Requirement
Rationale for award was not necessary.	Agency must provide rationale for award	Adds this Requirement
Make or model information was not necessary.	Agency must provide make or model of commercial end-item, if applicable	Adds this Requirement

Pre-FASA Release Criteria

An agency was not required to show the unsuccessful offeror that it complied with the solicitation, statutes, regulations and "other applicable authorities."

Agency may not present a point-by-point comparison of offers.

May not reveal information that is not releasable under FOIA.

List specific information to be excluded and ties their excludability to FOIA release/withhold principles. The information to be excluded was that related to trade secrets, privileged or confidential manufacturing processes or techniques, or commercial or financial information.

FASA Release Criteria

Agency must provide, "Reasonable responses to relevant questions.. as to whether source selection set forth in the solicitation, applicable regulations, and other applicable authorities were followed by the agency."

Agency may not present a point-by-point comparison of offers.

May not disclose information exempt under 5 USC 552(b). [FOIA exemptions.]

Does not list any other withholding criteria. (However, the implementing regulation adds the listing.)

Change

Adds this Requirement

Stays the Same

Stays substantially the same. (SeeBelow)

Omits this listing

Pre-FASA Record Keeping and Notification**FASA Record Keeping and Notification****Change**

This was not required.

Requires that debriefings be conducted within a relatively short time period.

Adds this Requirement

This was not required.

In the case of a successful protest, the agency must preserve debriefing information for a period of one year.

Adds this Requirement

This was not required.

If the agency issues a new solicitation or requests a new round of BAFO's within a year of the successful protest, the agency must provide the preserved debriefing information to the participating offerors.

Adds this Requirement

REPORTING OF LOBBYING ACTIVITIES

(by Robert Taylor, OST, M-62)

from October 1, 1995 through December 31, 1996, but that will be the last time. One less semiannual report.

The recently passed Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 has made some changes to the reporting requirements under the Byrd Anti-Lobbying Amendment. Grantees and contractors must still submit reports of certain lobbying activities. However, the reporting form will be changed, and the report will not need to be forwarded. The Act also eliminated the annual OIG audit requirement. We will still need lobbying disclosure forms for the period

USE OF GSA SOURCES OF SUPPLY BY GRANTEES

(by Robert Taylor, OST, M-62)

As some of you may know, FASA made a number of changes affecting grant programs. One provision in FASA allows State and local governments to use the GSA Federal Supply Schedules. Because most of our grantees are State or local governments

and GSA had decided to make a very broad definition of State and local governments, many program personnel and grantees were anxious to receive final regulations from GSA. However, a provision in the recently passed Defense Authorization Act will delay that for at least 18 months while the General Accounting Office conducts a study of the possible impact on small businesses and local dealers.

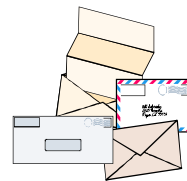
NATIONAL INDUSTRIES FOR THE BLIND HAS MOVED

(by Barbara Weakley, OST, M-61)

Effective September 1, 1995, the National Industries for the Blind's headquarters and administrative offices were consolidated into one facility in Alexandria, Virginia. Their new mailing address, telephone and fax numbers are:

National Industries for the Blind
1901 N. Beauregard Street,
Suite 200
Alexandria, VA 22311-1727
TEL: (703) 998-0770
FAX: (703) 998-8268

ARTICLES FOR THE DOTted LINE

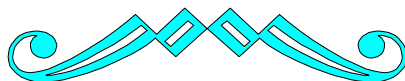


Please remember that the DOTted Line is here to help "spread the procurement and grant news." If you have any other good ideas, some interesting tidbits you would like to share with others, or perhaps a subject(s) you would like for us to discuss in the DOTted Line, please jot them down and send them to:

U.S. Department of Transportation
Office of Acquisition and Grant
Management
The DOTted LINE
ATTN: Dave Jordan, M-61
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Room 9401
Washington, D.C. 20590

You may also fax your article to (202) 366-7510 or use the INTERNET and send to **dave_jordan@postmaster2.dot.gov**. The deadline for the submission of articles for the next DOTted LINE is June 28, 1996.

If you have any questions pertaining to this issue of the DOTted LINE, please contact Dave Jordan at (202) 366-4265.



As of 2/15/96

FY 1995 GAO PROTESTS

<u>MODAL ADMINISTRATION</u>	<u>TOTAL NUMBER OF PROTESTS</u>	<u>D I S P O S I T I O N O F P R O T E S T S</u>					<u>OTHER</u>
		<u>DENIED</u>	<u>DISMISSED</u>	<u>SUSTAINED</u>	<u>WITHDRAWN</u>		
FAA	30	9	19	1	0	1*	
USCG	26	3	15	0	7	1*	
FHWA	6	1	3	1	1	0	
RSPA	3	0	1	0	0	2**	
FTA	2	0	2	0	0	0	
OST	2	0	2	0	0	0	
MARAD	1	0	0	0	1	0	
NHTSA	1	1	0	0	0	0	
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	
DOT TOTALS	71	14	42	2	9	4	

*Academic protest/agency granted relief.

**Denied in part/dismissed in part (1);
Academic protest/agency granted relief (1).